

Repatriation of Remains - Victims of COVID 19 (Information as of April 9, 2020)

CDC Requirements:

CDC requirements for importing human remains depend upon if the body has been embalmed, cremated, or if the person died from a [quarantinable communicable disease](#).

At this time, COVID-19 is a quarantinable communicable disease in the United States and the remains must meet the standards for importation found in 42 Code of Federal Regulations Part 71.55 and may be cleared, released, and authorized for entry into the United States only under the following conditions:

- The remains are cremated, OR
- The remains are properly embalmed and placed in a hermetically sealed casket, OR
- The remains are accompanied by a permit issued by the CDC Director. The CDC permit (if applicable) must accompany the human remains at all times during shipment.
 - Permits for the importation of the remains of a person known or suspected to have died from a quarantinable communicable disease may be obtained through the CDC Division of Global Migration and Quarantine by calling the CDC Emergency Operations Center at 770-488-7100 or emailing dgmqpolicyoffice@cdc.gov.

Please see [CDC's guidance](#) for additional information.

Zambia Specific Requirements:

Please note, the local information and procedures outlined below are still being developed and amended by the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) and individual cases may be handled differently as further guidelines and procedures are instituted. This information is subject and likely to change as the pandemic and its impact on Zambian medical capacity develops.

If a U.S. citizen death occurs due to COVID-19, the U.S. Embassy will assist with obtaining current procedures and options.

Zambia requires that all COVID 19 remains be buried by the government. In exceptional circumstance the authorities may be able to allow the remains to be cremated. This decision will be determined on a case by case basis by relevant Zambian government health officials.

Currently Lusaka has one crematorium with the capacity to cremate per required Ministry of Health protocol for exportation of cremains. The crematorium is at Ambassador St. Ann Funeral Home. The Funeral Home Director's contact information is provided below:

Ambassador St Ann Funeral Home (24-hour service):

Address: Headquarters along Mumbwa Road

Tel: +260-211-288-148; +260-211-286-904

Mobile: +260-955-067-209

Fax: +260-211-287-611

Funeral Director: Kelvin Ngolofwane

Mobile: +260-955-067-209

Email: kelvinngolofwane@gmail.com

A few things to note:

1. The GRZ will expect the family to make a very quick decision if cremation is an option.
2. The GRZ will give authority to the crematorium to cremate and they will attend the cremation.
3. The GRZ will disinfect the remains and transport them to the crematorium for cremation.
4. The price for cremation, co-ordination, transportation etc. will vary on a case-by-case basis and will be determined as the situation evolves.

Following cremation, the remains are placed in an urn which is enclosed in a container for return to the United States as air cargo or checked baggage. Shipment via parcel post is not recommended and may not be possible at the moment due to limited air services. No courier companies based in Zambia accept shipping of cremated human remains, so shipping must be completed via air freight. Currently the only airline flying out of Zambia is Ethiopian Airlines.

Some air carriers permit the transport of cremated remains as part of a passenger's checked or carry-on luggage. Visit <https://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/whatcanibring/items/cremated-remains> for information on traveling with cremated remains.

Documents Required for cremated remains (by air freight):

1. Cremation Certificate
2. Consular Report of Death Abroad
3. Zambian Death Certificate
4. Funeral director affidavit concerning contents of urn
6. Certified copy of the deceased's passport
7. Non-infectious Disease Certificate may be needed
8. Local customs exportation form stating that the urn contains human remains only.
9. Permit to remove the remains from Zambia from the Ministry of Health Provincial Medical Officer.